

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
Regular SEPTEMBER Monthly Meeting

SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

The regularly scheduled SEPTEMBER meeting of the Fayette County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Chairman Addison Lester at 5:05 P.M. Also present were Members Marilyn Watts and Darryl Hicks.

A. HEARINGS

1. DECEASED ELECTORS - Supervisor Sawyer turned this portion of the meeting over to Elections Officer Crosby. She presented a list of deceased voters which came from a Secretary of State report that contained persons that might not be an exact match as between the voters list and those of vital records of the State of Georgia. She stated that another report from the Secretary of State contains deceased voters that are an exact match. These electors are automatically deleted by the Secretary of State and this report is not submitted to the Fayette County Elections Board. Member Hicks moved to accept the list as presented by Officer Crosby. Member Watts seconded the motion. Chairman Lester called for the vote which carried 3 – 0.

2. FELONS - Chairman Lester asked Officer Crosby to present the list of felons that she had prepared for the board to consider deleting. She stated that they had all been notified by a letter. Member Watts asked how many there were that were on this month's list. Member Hicks said that it appeared to be about 11 or so. Member Watts said that it appeared to be about 100 to 150 felons that were being deleted each year. Chairman Lester noted that most were in the 30 to 31 year range. Officer Crosby said that the reports that we are now receiving do not show the charges that the persons have been convicted of. Member Hicks made a motion to delete those cited felons. Member Watts seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried 3 – 0.

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

3. ELECTION ISSUES - Supervisor Sawyer presented several e-mails that had been forwarded to him by Jack Krakeel that had been received from Commissioner Steve Brown. The e-mails were quite vicious and he even reported that "people are suggesting that things are rigged." Commissioner Brown appeared to have become quite personal in his accusations. Supervisor Sawyer said that newly elected Oddo had asked for a map showing the commissioner's districts. It was asked by the board if his people didn't include all citizens within the county. It might be his mindset that he thinks that we should go to district voting. Member Watts said that the commissioner's rarely come into the election's office and don't have a clue what is going on in here. A Sample Ballot was given to each of the board members which is a consolidated ballot showing all candidates that will be running in all races in all precincts here in the county. Chairman Lester asked if we were limited as to the wording that we could put on the sample ballots;

explaining that every voter will not see all the candidates shown on the sample ballot as we prepare them. Sawyer said that was a good idea and would possibly eliminate some confusion.

A copy of an email from Bethany United Methodist Church was included to the board regarding harassment on voters. Supervisor Sawyer said that he has been contacted by Bryan Woodie of the Fayette County Sheriff's Department that he plans to have deputies available to patrol all county voting locations.

4. ADVANCED VOTING - Supervisor Sawyer presented a layout and voter flow chart that was presented by Fire Marshall David Scarborough who was recommending that this diagram be used here at the Stonewall complex for advanced voting. This was sent to the Elections Office after several departments within the county (Permits & Inspections, Building & Grounds and the Fire Marshall) were asked what they thought about the capability of the upstairs balcony to hold all the extra persons who were expected to come vote. The plans are being made for advanced voting – we will have only 21 days versus 45 days that were available in 2008. Supervisor Sawyer stated that we are planning to open the Elections Office, the Peachtree City Library and the Tyrone Town Hall the entire 21 days. This will help spread folks better throughout the county during advanced voting. Supervisor Sawyer stated that voters are permitted to go to any one of these three locations. Supervisor Sawyer stated that the Commission Chambers here at the Stonewall Complex will also be open the last week prior to the General Election. Supervisor Sawyer said that the three locations – Elections, Peachtree City library and the Tyrone Town Hall - will be open on the Saturday prior to the elections. Sawyer said that Clayton County is open until 7:00pm most nights. This is something that the board might consider for future elections.

5. ELECTION UPDATE - Supervisor Sawyer gave an election update through today.

Absentee Ballots Mailed Out – 1178 ballots

(Including Approximately 152 UOCAVA Ballots)

Supervisor Sawyer told the board that those voters who had applied for Electronic Ballot Delivery – they will complete those and they will be returned on plain paper with the UOCAVA watermark. These will have to be duplicated on actual ballots here in the elections office in order to be through the opti-scan voting machine. Supervisor Sawyer announced the poll worker training dates would be October 10th and October 17th at 10:00am and 2:00pm. The makeup class will be October 23, 2012 at 7:00pm. Supervisor Sawyer stated that we had accumulated a number of issues from the previous 2012 elections that we would be presenting to the poll workers. Member Watts asked that we should emphasize to the poll workers that poll watchers are not their enemies. She said that some take an adversarial attitude when they see a poll watcher. The poll watchers are there to help them and not to spy on them. We need to be sure that their role should be thoroughly explained. Member Watts said that poll watchers have a good opportunity to check things out in the outside area of the polling locations. Supervisor Sawyer gave a copy of the approved list of colleges whose ID's were acceptable as identification for voting. Supervisor Sawyer stated that we will begin L & A for equipment that is to be used in the election will begin next week – board is being invited to attend if they wish –

October 4, 5 and 6. All batteries will be replaced in all voting machines as recommended by ES&S. This will include batteries in the Express Poll as well as all the DRE's.

NOTE: Chairman Addison asked to be sure all board members approved several items mentioned by Supervisor Sawyer. This included the use of the three polling location for all 21 days as well as the use of the Commission Chambers the final week before the election. The board also was in agreement to open all three advanced sites for the Saturday voting.

6. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE – OCTOBER 1, 2012 – 11:30AM TO 1:30PM

Supervisor Sawyer reported that he was contacted by Mr. Sweatman from the Fayette County Board of Education that the principals of the high schools were asking for a one-day voter registration drive. The Knights of Columbus, who were trained earlier in the year were contacted to consider conducting these voter registration drives at all the high school locations for this one day drive. They will be at each of the following high schools:

- Fayette County High School
- Sandy Creek High School
- McIntosh High School
- Starrs Mill High School
- Whitewater High School
- Our Lady of Mercy

7. CHANGES AT PRECINCT # 2 – BROOKS - Supervisor Sawyer said that he planned to confirm once more that the Brooks United Methodist Church was going to allow the use of the sanctuary for the November General Election. Poll Manager Sharon said that the double rooms were very inadequate if this was what they had to use for future elections. Supervisor Sawyer stated that we will be okay in 2013 since we will likely not have any municipal elections in Brooks. Sharon said that she would have to have more people if they had to use those double rooms because her people would have to be split up. Supervisor Sawyer said that he had heard that there may be other options to handle the elections for Brooks. He said that he would go down there and take a look and possibly just move the precinct location rather than having to deal with the folks at the church polling location. This will not have to be decided until 2014.

8. EDISON RESEARCH - They are requesting information from Fayette Voting Precinct 34 after the polls close on election day.

9. CHANGES TO 21-2-413 REGARDING USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT - Senate Bill 92 has a suggested Board Policy regarding the use of photographic equipment - Section 30 of Senate Bill 92. The board members said that if needed they could be e-mailed with any suggested changes and they could also respond by e-mail. Member Hicks asked what was the desire as presented. The board took a moment to review this suggested Board Policy as presented. Chairman Lester said that he had one question - if we encourage them to get the person's permission before they take the picture, they may possibly have to interrupt the person while they are actually voting or

grab them before they actually go up to vote. Member Hicks said that they may could get their permission afterwards. Chairman Lester said that they would have probably already taken the picture – they would have to make sure that it was deleted. Or technically, the person could say that they had not given their permission. The board thought that we should have a form prepared for the reporter to have signed by the person whose picture was being taken. It will be upon the person taking the picture to keep this as proof that he did have permission to take the picture. Chairman Lester thought that they should get the signature before the picture was taken. Supervisor Sawyer said that he would make that change.

Member Watts asked what could be “short duration” if taking moving images. Chairman Lester said that he couldn’t imagine unless it was probably less than 30 seconds that it would hold anybody’s attention. Member Hicks said that he thought the media would probably not take anything more than just 5 seconds. Chairman Lester asked that they discuss changes be made and e-mailed to the board members and they can respond.

Supervisor Sawyer presented a copy of information provided by the Secretary of State’s office regarding the Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Supervisor Sawyer passed out a booklet “RESTRICTIONS AT POLLING PLACES – The ‘ No Campaign Zone’ “. There is a code section that says because we are issuing absentee ballots from this location, we are asking person to restrict the use of any campaign materials, including T-Shirts and the like.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

NONE .

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE.

F. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

NONE.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Member Watts made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was seconded by Member Hicks. The motion carried by a vote of 3 – 0